

CHAPTER NO. 887

HOUSE BILL NO. 2978

By Representatives Ulysses Jones, Sharp, Henri Brooks, Marrero

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2255

By Senator Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to elementary and secondary education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated part:

§ 49-6-8201.

(a) Up to January 1, 2005, the department of education is authorized to establish a demonstration project for distance learning through videoconferencing for public school students. The department, in consultation with LEAs, may select at least four (4) courses for the demonstration project. At least one (1) course should be selected from each of the following types of courses:

(1) Courses in which shortages of highly qualified teachers exist, including high-level courses for exceptional students;

(2) Courses that some LEAs are unable to provide due to the potentially small enrollment of interested students; and

(3) Courses that are remedial and that are designed to assist students who need additional instruction in core academic subjects.

(b) The department may solicit proposals for the development and production of the selected courses from LEAs or consortiums of LEAs and may provide incentive grants for funding all or part of the development and production of a course.

§ 49-6-8202.

Any LEA that permits a student to enroll in a demonstration project course is responsible for providing a classroom, any equipment necessary to permit viewing and communicating by videoconferencing with the teacher of such course and other students enrolled in the course, and all books and materials necessary for the course. The LEA would also provide a teacher or teacher's aide to supervise the classroom during the videoconferencing.

§ 49-6-8203.

All demonstration project courses shall be provided at times that would be within the regular school hours of participating LEAs.

§ 49-6-8204.

The department is authorized to monitor and measure the effectiveness of the distance learning demonstration project. The department may submit an annual report of findings and recommendations, including an assessment of the effectiveness of such demonstration project, to the house and senate education committees, and to the state board of education.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 20, 2004



JIMMY RAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 7th day of June 2004



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR